

H1N1 INFLUENZA BULLETIN

October 26, 2009

This bulletin provides updated information regarding H1N1 influenza activity in Connecticut and Danbury, and guidance from local, state and national public health officials. While the facts related to preventive strategies have not changed, there have been significant changes in data available at the state and local levels regarding H1N1 and “influenza-like illness” (ILI) activity.

Key Facts about H1N1 Disease as of October 26, 2009

- Consistent with what is now being seen across the State of Connecticut, Danbury Public Schools are seeing an increase in influenza like illness activity.
- This increased activity is substantiated by: reports by parents of influenza like illness in students sick at home; data from school nurse assessments of students who are presenting with influenza like illness in school, however, absence rates has stayed within the range of normal limits.
- No change in disease severity has been reported.

Key Facts about H1N1 Vaccine Distribution

- To obtain information on eligibility and availability of H1N1 vaccine in our area, check the City of Danbury website at www.ct.danbury.ct, and link to the health department. You may also call 796-1619 for the city’s flu hotline
- You may also check with your healthcare provider for advice and availability of vaccine for your child.
- As vaccine becomes available, Danbury Public schools hopes to partner with the Danbury Visiting Nurse’s Association to offer clinics for students. This is based on vaccine availability and no date has been set. You will receive information from your child’s school as clinics are scheduled.

School Interventions

- School and local public health officials continue to collaborate, and to monitor for changes in guidance from the State Department of Public Health and U.S. Centers for Disease Control.
- Schools will stay open unless there is a point at which they are unable to operate due to very high student or staff absenteeism.
- Danbury Public Schools cleaning procedures are in keeping with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control related to H1N1 transmission concerns. As a reminder, this virus lives on inanimate objects for 2-8 hours; hence school scrub downs at night are ineffective and unnecessary.

To reduce the spread of H1N1 in our schools, PLEASE

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL WHEN THEY ARE NOT FEELING WELL.
- **Keep your children home if they have signs of illness;** monitor for fever and cough, sore throat.
- If your child has a fever, **keep him or her home for at least 24 hours** after he or she no longer has a fever **without the use of fever-reducing medication.**
- Get your children vaccinated when vaccine becomes available (H1N1, seasonal).
- Consult with your physician in advance if your child has a chronic condition that puts him/her at higher risk for illness with the flu.

If your child is ill, consult with your physician’s office by phone *before* going to the office. You may also see the Danbury Public Schools website for updated information at WWW.danbury.k12.ct.us